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SATURDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 1878. (See page 107.)

CONFIDENTIAL

SELECTIONS

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PUNJAB.

THE NORTHWESTERN PROVINCES.

UDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Received up to 9th February, 1878.

300 copies
Circulars

The Oracle Akabar of the 5th February praises the general

The distribution of honours and titles of Her Majesty for having institutions and titles of the Order of the Bath.

**Circulation,
700 copies.**

It is believed that the English Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for India are contemplating the creation of a similar Order for the children of the Royal Family and of the Native Princes and Nobles. In the times of former kings honours and titles were conferred only upon men. But Her Majesty, being herself a woman, sympathises with women and children, and has, therefore, been pleased to recognise their claims by instituting Orders of distinction for them. The distribution of honours and titles as at present conducted is objectionable. It is only the fortunate favourites of district officers who receive them, whilst men with better claims but no private interest are neglected. The number of new appointments to the Order of the Indian Empire every year has been limited to twenty. But this number is obviously too small to comprehend the two hundred and fifty million inhabitants

tants of India. The titles should also befit the individuals upon whom they are conferred. A Parsee gentleman has received the title of "Khan Bahadur" which is not at all suitable to him. The Parsis living in Guzerat and Bombay are regarded as a kind of Hindus. They are generally merchants and bankers. The titles of "Seth," "Nagar Seth," "Jagat Seth," "Maha Seth," "Rao," "Raja," &c., will be more suitable to them than that of "Khan Bahadur." Compared to civil officers, military officers, both European and Native, are almost wholly excluded from sharing in the distribution of titles, which is unjust. The scale of pension fixed for the native officers of the army is very low. The members of the newspaper press should be also eligible to badges of honour.

Circulation,
300 copies.

The *Mashir-i-Qaisar* of the 3rd February says that honesty

is loved and dishonesty is hated by
The Turko-Russian war. Every nation in the world. But Euro-

pean honesty is a strange kind of honesty. Perhaps no nation in the world, at least we natives of India, can realise it in our minds. Similarly, we cannot comprehend the meanings of the words justice, policy, and promises, or treaty obligations, as they are understood in Europe. Nor shall we ever be able to understand their meanings. No dictionary can help us, because the words are not difficult, but our own understandings are defective. The honesty of Europe was colorless for a long time. But now it has been tinged with the blood of the Turks, who are a pious, honest, and just people. This tinge will last till the judgment day. The civilised kings of Europe should bear in mind that they will have one day to appear before the Almighty, in their stained dresses, and will be taken to task for their strange conduct. The annexation of Poland, the overthrow of Khiva and Bokhara, the shedding of unnecessary blood in France, the shedding of the blood of the Turks for no good reason, and looking with indifference at the misfortunes of neighbours, are all standing proofs of

the honesty, justice, and high civilisation of Europe. If it is your "policy to devastate a country with fire and sword, to dishonour women, and stab children with bayonets, why do you complain of Nadir Shah? Why do you fill your histories with descriptions of cruelties and barbarities committed by Changez Khan? And why do you condemn Saraj-ud-daula? Those notorious tyrants, too, did nothing more but what is now being done in Europe. Besides, they had no such deadly firearms as the Krupp gun, and the Henri-Martini rifle.

Since the very commencement of the Turko-Russian war England has been declaring her conditional neutrality. But it should be borne in mind that the Porte has suffered an enormous loss of men and money in the war, not only in the defence of its own interests but also of those of England. Just before the Prusso-Dutch war, the English prestige stood very high in Europe. But since that time it has been continually suffering. The loss of English prestige in Europe has offered Germany a favourable opportunity of encroaching upon the dominions of her weak neighbours. Prince Bismarck perceiving the growing weakness of England at once formed a secret alliance with Russia to promote each other's interests. Germany then waged war against France. Russia rendered material aid to Germany during the war. But England unwisely stood aloof, and looked with indifference at the ruin of France. The king of Germany assumed the title of Emperor, and England recognised the assumption by him of the imperial title without objection. Prince Bismarck then advised Russia to adopt measures for the destruction of the Turkish power which was her old enemy. The various stages through which the Eastern question has passed presented England several opportunities for intervention in behalf of the Porte, as, for instance, when the Russians began to spread sedition in the Christian provinces of the Turkish empire, when the European powers brought undue pressure to bear upon the Sultan at the late Conference held at Constantinople, when the German power

openly began to render aid to Russia, and when Servia, to which England had secured peace and saved her from complete ruin, ungratefully again raised the standard of revolt and cast in her lot with the Russians. Both France and Turkey, the two great allies of England, being overthrown, England has now no voice in European politics. If a rebellion, like the one excited by the Russians in Bulgaria, were to break out in the States of Baroda and Jodhpur, and the Government of India were placed thereby in the same critical position as the Porte, what measures would the English ministry adopt to suppress the rebellion? If the suppression of the revolt involved the death of ten or twenty thousand blood thirsty rebels, what would Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Freeman, and Sir George Campbell say to that? It was the wild clamour of the liberal party in England against the severities exercised by the irregular Turkish troops upon the Bulgarian insurgents that encouraged the Russians to proclaim war against the Turks. If England had menaced Russia at this time, the latter would have never dared to declare war against the Porte. The writer then, referring to the strong religious sympathies that exist between the Turks and the other Muhammadan tribes of the world, calls upon the English ministry to keep always before their view the thoughts and feelings of their Indian Musalman subjects in all their discussions and deliberations regarding the Turko-Russian war.

Circulation,
100 copies.

The Anwar-ul-Akhbar of the 7th February says that the Christian powers of Europe should congratulate themselves on the maintenance of the Turkish empire. As soon as the Turks are overpowered in war, Imam Mehdi will come into the world to destroy the enemies of Islam. This circumstance is sufficient to buoy up the drooping spirits of the Muhammadans.

NATIVE STATES.

A correspondent of the *Safir-i-Hind* of the 2nd February says that the late popular riots in Suket are ascribed to the objectionable proceedings of Munshi Ram Datta Mal, the minister of the State. But in fact Munshi Ram Datta Mal alone is not to blame! His misconduct created popular discontent. The brothers of the reigning chief, who are at enmity with the latter, seizing this favourable opportunity, instigated the people to revolt. Moreover, the people say that they repeatedly appealed to the commissioner of Jalandhar for the redress of their grievances, but that officer did not take their case into his favourable consideration.

Circulation,
220 copies.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The *Mufid-i-Am* of the 1st February, in reference to the

Circulation,
100 copies.

The Northern India License Bill, argues that most of the traders and artisans are hard beset with poverty. They are not in prosperous circumstances like the industrial and commercial classes of England. They really live from hand to mouth. Their condition has been considerably aggravated by the high prices which have been ruling all over the country for some time past. The rates of license fees levied last year, under the provisions of Act VIII of 1877, were considerably smaller than those laid down in the present bill. But even the working of Act VIII was productive of great hardship and oppression. The license-tax is said to be imposed to provide for the relief and prevention of famine. The Government should try to raise the requisite sum of money in some other way of old.

A correspondent of the *Vakil-i-Hind* of the 1st February says that the members of the municipal committee of Sialkote are like English dolls. Whenever the president or the secretary presides

Circulation,
212 copies.

them they utter the word "yes." At a late meeting of the municipal committee of Sialkote, a gentleman proposed the abolition of the reading-room. All the members at once unanimously agreed to the proposal. The reading-room was an institution of great public utility. It subscribed for a number of newspapers for the perusal of the public. Munshi Kadir Bakhsh, extra assistant commissioner, is neither an *ex-officio* member of the municipal committee, nor has his appointment as member of the committee been yet published in the *Government Gazette*, but still he is recognised as a member of the committee, and is at present acting as the secretary of the committee. According to the provisions of section 20 of Act IV. of 1873 no man, who has any private dealings with the municipal committee, can be a member of that committee. All the printing work of the municipal committee is done at the press of Munshi Diwan Chand, and still he is a member of the committee. In commenting upon the above article, the editor remarks that the provisions of section 20 of Act IV. of 1873 are also violated by the municipal committee of Amritsar. Several members of the committee have private dealings with the committee. The same paper in its local news columns says that the small cause court of Amritsar is accommodated in a building belonging to the municipal committee. But why does not the committee take the rent of the building from the Government? Why are the *mislukhans* of the honorary benches of Amritsar paid out of municipal funds? They do Government work and not municipal work. It is, therefore, not fair and equitable to pay them out of municipal funds.

Indian subjects. Europeans, especially Englishmen, are famous for their human sympathy. It is the duty of every king to relieve his subjects, much more is it so of a kind hearted sovereign. We exhort our Empress, in the name of Mary's son, and we exhort Her Majesty's representatives in India, in the name of their high civilisation, to render relief to the famine-stricken people. The country is now severely suffering from famine. Sometime ago gangs of paupers used to wander about the city in search of relief. But starvation has now quite prostrated them. They are to be seen lying helpless in every street and thoroughfare. Many of them squat in grain markets digging grains, one by one, out of the ground; while others eat the refuse leaves of edible vegetables picked up in the bazar. Women cry for relief to their famishing children. A pauper carried the dead body of a child with him for three days in every street and thoroughfare to extort alms. Such scenes of distress are enough to rend one's heart. This is no ordinary famine, but a general calamity brought on by the wrath of Heaven. It is really surprising that we, being the subjects of an august sovereign like Her Majesty, get no relief. An abundant *rabi* harvest is in the fields. But by the time the harvest is reaped the poor people will have perished from starvation. The cruel grain-dealers have immensely raised the prices. They look to their own gain in utter disregard of the lives of the people. It is high time that the Government should relieve the sufferers, otherwise thousands of men will die of hunger in a short time.

The *Safar-i-Hind* of the 2nd February calls upon the Government to put down by law the evil practice of adorning children with ornaments. The practice of adorning children with ornaments is a valuable ornament which prevails among the Hindus. Instances of child-murder on account of ornaments are of frequent occurrence. When the Govern-

Circulation,
220 copies.

ment has had the boldness to suppress several such practices, viz., *sati*, casting children into the holy waters of the Ganges, &c., which were regarded as religious; it need not be over-scrupulous in interfering with a purely social custom beloved by millions of people. The *Mulwa Akhbar* of the 1st February says that the recent famine furnishes a good example of the difference that exists between a national and a foreign rule. The native chiefs provide relief to their poor subjects in the event of an outbreak of famine in their States. But they never think of resorting to additional taxes to recoup the famine expenditure. They also grant remissions of land revenue. In fact they have to grant remissions every year on account of one reason or other. But it is quite otherwise with the Government of India. To say nothing of times of slight distress, it makes no remissions of the revenue demand even when a great famine occurs, and large numbers of men perish from starvation. To provide labour for the suffering classes, it starts remunerative relief works, viz., canals, railways, &c. The famine expenditure always weighs as an incubus upon the breast of the Government, while it altogether leaves out of account the immense profit which it afterwards reaps from the relief works. The Deccan famine of last year involved an expenditure of only sixteen millions sterling. To provide for the relief and prevention of famine in future, the Government has thought fit to levy a license tax upon all trades and professions. The License Bill has been published in the *Bombay Gazette*. To realise the late famine charges from the people will be an act of miserliness and inhumanity on the part of our Government. The Government is going to recoup the famine expenditure by fresh taxation. But where will the annual income from the remunerative relief works go to? Thus the Government will profit even by the famine. According to the recently published law a man will have to pay taxes for the ground where the date tree is planted; for the tree itself, for its fruit, &c.

ands for the spirituous liquor made of the juice. If the Government is unable to meet the famine expenditure out of its ordinary revenues, is it not possible to curtail the public expenditure? It is a general belief that the Government has burdened the Indian Exchequer with heavy items of expenditure. Look at the "army charges" only. They amount to seventeen millions sterling, i.e., to one-third of the total revenues of India. The Indian army, consisting only of 150,000 troops, is not so numerically strong as to necessitate such a heavy expenditure. Nor can it be pretended that it is better equipped or disciplined than that of any State in Europe, for instance, Russia, Austria, &c. The following is a comparative statement for the various powers of Europe showing the total revenues and the "army charges" of each power:—

Country.	Total revenues.	Army charges.	What part the army charges are of the total revenues.
Belgium,	10 millions,	1½ millions,	15
Spain,	28	4½	15
Portugal,	5½	2	36
Austria,	58½	10½	18
France,	113	22	19
Germany,	20	2	10
Turkey,	20	3½	18

The following statement gives the average annual cost per soldier for each power:—

Country.	Cost per head.
England	£ 138
India	£ 80
France	£ 38
Austria	£ 38
Portugal	£ 38
Russia	£ 87
Spain	£ 28
Belgium	£ 17
Turkey	£ 17

Hence it will be readily perceived that there is ample room for effecting savings in the military department of the Government of India. It is the duty of the Government to render relief to the people in times of famine. Now that the Government has recourse to additional taxation, we are obliged to protest against the heavy army charges.

Circulation,
310 copies.

A correspondent of the *Shahi Tur* of the 3rd February, of *the Oudh Local Rates in Reference to the Oudh Local Rates Enhancement Bill 1871*, observes that the enhancement of local rates by one per cent. on the rental of land will raise the total amount of local rates to two and a quarter per cent. The levy of these additional rates does not appear to be consistent with the promise of the Government that it would not increase the revenue demand fixed at the time of settlement. In the time of Wajid Ali Shah additional rates over and above the land assessment used to be exacted from the landholders. The exaction of these additional rates by the ex-king of Oudh was regarded as an act of oppression and injustice by the Government of India. Thus the levy of additional rates, which was condemned as an act of injustice in the old régime, is now looked upon as having nothing objectionable in it. There is only one way of explaining this state of things. In the time of Wajid Ali Shah these exactions from the landholders were not made on a uniform principle. In the case of one man the revenue demand was increased by one per cent., in that of another by ten per cent., while the third man escaped scot-free. The increase was also not regularly exacted every year. Owing to this confusion and disorder the imposition of new burdens upon the agricultural classes was considered to be unjust. But in the present administration, the revenue demand is enhanced in a systematic and uniform manner. When the increase has been once effected it can never be remitted. No man can evade its payment. Thus the agricultural classes in the course of time

become accustomed to the payment of more taxes, and cease to regard them as unjust and oppressive, and will easily submit to almost any POST OFFICE RATE. VARIOUS REFORMS AT THE KALA-NAGAR OF THE 2nd FEBRUARY points out the expediency of introducing certain reforms in the postal arrangements.

Circulation,
495 copies.

Refused letters and newspapers generally take three weeks in going back to the senders : hence it appears that they are detained for more than a week at the dead-letter office. In the case of newspapers this delay is a source of great inconvenience to the press and the subscribers. Suppose a subscriber "refuses" an issue of a newspaper, and does not inform the press by means of a letter of withdrawing his name from the list of subscribers. Now it will be three weeks before that "refused" copy reaches the press ; and, therefore, the press, as a matter of course, will continue to address copies of the newspaper, which issue during that period, to the subscribers. Owing to this circumstance a misunderstanding will naturally arise between the press and the subscriber as to the amount of subscription due by the latter. "Refused" copies of newspapers should not be at all delayed by the dead-letter office. They should be at once sent back to the press by which they were despatched. The rules about the packet or book post require to be slightly modified. Full particulars of packets received into a post-office for despatch should be recorded in a register. The office should also grant receipts to senders for packets. The introduction of these two necessary changes in the postal rules will prevent the loss of packets.

Circulation,
450 copies.

A correspondent of the *Patna-Hind* of the 5th February, A. complaint against the ~~say~~ complained of the misconduct of collector on the Panjab done Mr. Pande, a ticket collector on Northern Railway. He is a Eurasian by birth. Mr. Pande was formerly a pleader of the High Court, but was turned out of the

Circulation,
450 copies.

430 copies
Circulation

court for his misconduct. Both he and his assistant uncessantly harass the passengers. Their conduct towards women is especially objectionable. They enter the compartments of women under the pretence of examining the age of children whom the latter happen to have with them. If any woman raises the least objection they turn her out of the carriage and make her over to the police.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Circulation,
450 copies.

A correspondent of the *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 5th February, complains of habitual neglect of duty by the Deputy Inspector of Police of thana Shekhan, in the Gajrat district. The correspondent writes to the police, of thana Shekhan, manzil Mamha, Gajrat district (Panjab). In cases of theft the deputy inspector never goes himself to make local enquiries to trace the theft. He always deputes his subordinates for that purpose. When a man reports a theft at the thana, he charges him with falsehood. The Inspector-General of Police should make an enquiry into his conduct.

Circulation,
210 copies.

The *Rohilkhand Akhbár* of the 2nd February, in its local news column, complains that shops for the sale of flesh in Moradabad, the sale of flesh are now open in thoroughfares and public streets in the city of Moradabad, and are very objectionable on sanitary grounds. The municipal committee of Moradabad should build a flesh-market outside the city, and a check should be exercised over the sale of bad flesh.

Circulation,
160 copies.

430 copies
Circulation

The *Khair Khwah-i-Alam* of the 7th February, in reference to the princes of the Royal family of Delhi, says that after the mutiny the Government granted a pension of Rs. 5 a month to each of them. The Government, however, unwiseley offered them the choice of taking a lump sum of money instead of the monthly allowance of Rs. 5. Many of them accepted a lump sum, and

squandered it in a short time, as might have been expected. Accordingly those who preferred to exchange their monthly stipends for a lump sum of money are in a very wretched condition. The Begum of Bhawalpur has been pleased to grant a pension of Rs. 4 a month to each of them out of her own pocket. The total monthly cost of the pensions amounts to Rs 2,200. It is hoped that this noble example of generosity on the part of the Begum will not be lost on the other chiefs of India.

The Oudh Punch of the 5th February, in a communicated

**Circulation,
230 copies.**

The pleaders examination held at Allahabad. The article, complains of the ill-treatment which the candidates for the pleaders examination held at Allahabad receive in the examination room. At the last examination the examinees were subjected to a very strict discipline in the examination room. No one was allowed to lift his head, cough, or scratch his body. The matting of the room was very dirty. It was no easy task for the examinees to get writing materials. They had to ask the *daftri* several times for paper or ink before they could get it from him.

TALL TO TOWER EXAMINED.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

List of papers examined—(concluded).

PRIYA DAS,
Government Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.

PRINTED AT THE N.W.P. AND OUD GOVERNMENT PRESS, ALLAHABAD.

Constitution which is on the same scale. I, as of late, have

THREE DIVISIONS

THESE ARE THE CRAFTSMEN AND TRADESPEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED.